



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1913-08-25

Letter from Marion Foster Washburne to John Muir, 1913 Aug 25.

Marion Foster Washburne

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prefer sleeping ⁽⁴⁵⁾ outside - in
the woods - if we can escape
either heavy snow or heavy
rain. We don't want luxuries
or even civilized comforts: just
facilities for a fire over which
I can cook; & water; & a ref.
We'd like to be within five
miles or so of a neighbor or a
R.F.D. route; so that we can
get mail once a week.

Do you know of any such
place, Mr. Muir? Or of a
camping-place, in ~~the~~
perhaps in one of those ex-
quisite meadows you describe,

1323 Wilcox Avenue
Hollywood, Calif. Aug. 25-'13

My dear Mr. Muir:-

The questions
I am going to ask you will,
I know, secure from you their
own answer, without further
introduction; but I am never-
theless going to explain that
I am the niece of former
Secretary of the Interior, Gen.
John W. Noble to whom, I
believe, you dedicated one
of your beautiful & true books.
Now for the questions: Can
you tell me where I, with my
brother, can winter safely
in the great woods of California?

05519

(25)
We are both middle-aged
people, naturally sound & vigor-
ous, but just now suffering
from some severe trials
through which we have
recently passed. Your books
have been tonics through
this period & now we want
to go & spend some months
— perhaps a year — under
the shelter of those great
trees you so lovingly describe.
We hope to take it to our-
selves something of their
peaceful vigor.

C33
But we do not in the least know
him & ask about it. We are not
exactly poor; nevertheless our cir-
cumstances are such — we earn what we
use — that, if we are to give our-
selves a whole year's vacation, we
can only set aside safely about
\$500 a month for both of us. And if
possible that should include travelling
expenses. The thought of some cabin
we have thought of, ~~so~~ may be
— one even would do, ~~so~~ may be

Nellie's niece
Mrs Washburn

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where we can build such
a shelter, or pitch a tent?
If I should ever have
the good fortune to see
you, I shall tell you —
if I think you can bear
it — how you have made
Nature, whom I have always
loved, seem to love me
in response. And since you
are a part of Her, I am
sure of your affectionate
interest in my problem.
Until September fifth,

05519

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Please address me as
above. After that at
Tulare, Calif.

Y C. W. Washburne.

Sincerely yours,
(Mrs.) Marion Foster Washburne

P.S. You may be interested
to know that I have a big
son named John Noble
after his great-uncle.
M. F. W.